

I am seriously concerned about the proposed FCC rules and the unnecessary constraints they pose on wireless innovation. I am the cofounder and coordinator for the Champaign-Urbana Community Wireless Network (CUWiN -- see <http://www.cuwireless.net> ) -- a public-private partnership working on open-source, next-generation, mesh wireless networking solutions. CUWiN has filed comments along with the Media Access Project, Free Press, and the New America Foundation; but the proposed rule is so important to our development (and the work of hundreds of other projects across the nation) that I felt it necessary to respond in person also. The FCC's proposal would crush small-scale developers and community implementers, creating a massive barrier to entry for many wireless models. It would create tilt the playing field tremendously in favor of specific industry conglomerates -- thus lessening competition. And it would seriously hamper low-cost infrastructures, thus widening the digital divide.